

Burrillville

Recreation Commission

RE: Minutes, April 13, 2009

Present: Cheri Hall, Director Al Low

Al Gerew, Vice Chair L. Kevin McDonald

Alice Lavigne, Secretary

David Marcotte

Absent: -----

Excused: Kurt Schatz, Chair and Juliette Lopez-Recinos

Guests: Town Planner Tom Kravitz and Men's Softball President Mike Nault

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Al Gerew, Vice Chair, at the Burrillville Parks and Recreation Offices, 92 North Main Street, Pascoag, R.I.

Motion to accept minutes of March 9, 2009 regular meeting by Dave Marcotte. Seconded by Al Low. Motion passed 5-0.

Correspondence:

None

Good & Welfare:

Director Cheri Hall requested the Recreation Commission to share their cell phone numbers with the Parks & Recreation Department office to assist in making contact regarding any emergencies or cancellations.

Old Business:

Pedestrian/Bike Path

The Director reported that a meeting with the Town Planner, local fire officials, Jack Martin of the Sewer Department, Kevin San Antonio of the Police Department, Pascoag Utility District, and herself took place recently. A copy of the request list from those involved was distributed to the commission. The meeting was very positive. The first public hearing will be held within approximately two weeks.

Town Planner Tom Kravitz reported that the Town Manager wants to get it done before November 2009. The plans were reviewed with the commission. The first public workshop will have a larger copy of the plans for their review of the scope of the project for their input. The consultant would then begin engineering of draft of the plans to then be submitted to the Planning Board. A second public hearing with the Planning Board will then be held with input from the Recreation Commission.

Then submission of the plan to the State of Rhode Island Department

of Environmental Management for approval will take place during the summer months. Then possibly the bidding can take place next summer. Due to funding challenges the first phase could possibly include grading and placing a compact walking/biking surface. Department of Public Works will be contacted by the Town Planner regarding their assistance with the two street upgrades requested through the town capital improvement project list.

The Director stated that the other component of the Pedestrian/Bike Path project is potential for the creation of a public outdoor skating facility at duck pond. The Town Planner reviewed the plans where the town acquired approximately 55 acres from Bruce and David Barnes including the duck pond and railroad bed near Railroad Avenue and Chapel Street in which the Barnes' acquire the material. This was acquired at no cost to the town and would avoid approximately 40 plus houses. It is also a possibility that the design of the path to duck pond could be at no cost. This would be seasonal, sun up to sun down facility with no lighting recommended.

Barnes is in the process of removing the material to assist with the clearing for the path. An entrance will be at the end of Mowry Street and another at Railroad Avenue. The Town Planner has recently submitted a grant application for a parking area at the old Mobil Station. Dave Marcotte suggested that at the first public hearing, concerns, questions and public input from the town will be taken and answers can be given at the second public hearing. This pedestrian path plan has been included as far back as the 1965 comprehensive

plan and state G.O.P. plans. A price tag list will be compiled by the consultant for any requests made during the public hearing to assist in making decisions on implementation. The planning board is only required to contact property abutters but will place a Bargain Buyer advertisement. Al Gerew suggested the commission place a Bargain Buyer advertisement also for the meeting hosted by the Recreation Commission. The public hearing hosted by the Recreation Commission is scheduled to be held at the Jesse Smith Library in Harrisville on a Monday, May 4, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. A meeting notice will be sent to the Recreation Commission regarding the hearing.

A motion was made to hold a public hearing may 4, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. preferably at the Jesse Smith Library regarding the pedestrian/bike path made by Dave Marcotte. Seconded by Al Low. Motion passed 5-0. Al Gerew noted an announcement notice should be placed in the Bargain Buyer.

Town Planner Tom Kravitz then left the commission meeting.

Director Cheri Hall requested a change to the agenda to move the Field Permits/Fee agenda item to before the Family Fair agenda item.

Field Permits/Fees

The Director stated that she invited Men's Softball President Mike Nault to the Recreation Commission meeting to review the field use fee structure ordinance. A copy of the field use fee structure

ordinance was distributed to the commission. Currently due to the town's spending freeze, any field maintenance would be coming out of the collected field use fees. The cost for Men's Softball would be \$575 per field for a total cost of \$1,150.00. Due to the Burrillville Youth Little League and Girls Softball maintaining the fields and restrooms, except for the mowing, their field use fees are waived. Currently a total of \$600 has been collected in field use fees to date.

Mike Nault stated he was gathering information for his upcoming Men's Softball League meeting regarding the new field use fee structure. He questioned how the spending freeze was established. The Director stated the spending freeze was implemented per the Town Manager and Town Council. L. Kevin McDonald, who is also a member of the Budget Board, explained the State of Rhode Island slashed funding in half for this current fiscal year to all cities and towns after the budget was in force for six months. The Director explained there is no fertilization scheduled, watering of the grass unless there is a drought, and the lights at Branch River Park and the tennis courts adjacent to the high school are not being turned on. The Director announced there is no Men's Softball practice allowed since they are not scheduled or approved. Mike Nault stated the players do not like the current setup of the fields. The Director reported that fact is realized and new men's softball fields have been suggested as part of the town's stimulus requests. The Director shared a copy of Town of Yarmouth's fee schedule as a comparison.

Mike Nault has in his possession the three sets of keys currently assigned to the Men's League. Dave Marcotte reported that the commission has reviewed neighboring cities and towns to investigate their field use fees to aid in comprising the new field use fee structure. Mike Nault questioned if the lights at Hauser complex are available if needed. The Director stated the lights could be available at Hauser complex for the one field for use of lighting at an additional cost as listed on the new field use fees. Mike Nault questioned if the fields will be mowed on a regular basis. The Director is working with the Department of Public Works to make sure the fields will be mowed on a regular basis. Mike Nault wanted to assure the fields will be mowed by the April 26th Men's Softball tournament date.

Family Fair

The Family Fair theme is "Rockin & Rollin" and is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with flyers being shared with the commission. The department's fundraising account is supporting the cost of the family fair. A 50's band is performing with free hotdogs, chips and soda to senior citizens and children. A Bargain Buyer advertisement was not ordered and the big parade will not take place to cut down the price from \$1,500 to \$1,000. On the same day of the fair, Freedom Park is being closed due to work on the dam by the Department of Environmental Management. The work will include dismantling the playground equipment and having construction equipment stored at the Freedom Park site. The Director will meet with the Town Manager to discuss in more detail

the project at the Freedom Park site.

Department Copier

The copier has been delivered and is under a maintenance contract. All the department's copies are being put through the new copier for a cost savings.

Spring Lake Beach Painting Bid

The second Spring Lake Beach painting bid opening will take place on April 21, 2009. All the painting should be complete by mid June.

2009-2010 Budgets/League

According to the proposed budget for 2009/2010, the league budgets have been cut in half including the department's recreation programming budget. The Director will meet with the Town Manager regarding the department's recreation programming budget being cut also.

Trust Scholarship

The Director shared experiences from the trip to Washington D.C.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Director reported the Easter Egg Hunt went smoothly. All who participated enjoyed. Thanks given to staff and commission members who assisted including the Easter bunny portrayed by Judy Lopez-Recinos.

New Business:

Spring Lake Beach

Opening inspections and general cleanup are ongoing. Joe Hutnak has been cleaning along the fence line.

Summer Concerts

Contributions have been slower and an adjustment to the schedule will be made as needed.

Recreation Vehicle

Information has been forwarded to the Town Manager for a small S.U.V. No vehicle is available from the Police Department. It was stated that could possibly be funded through Spring Lake and B.E.C.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion made Al Low. Seconded by Dave Marcotte. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Motion Passed 5-0.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 11, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., Burrillville Parks & Recreation Offices, 92 North Main Street, Pascoag, RI 02859

Recorded by

Carol L. Conway

Administrative Aide

Burrillville Parks & Recreation Department

